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Letter dated 2 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 29 June 1998 (A/52/972-S/1998/586), I have the honour to draw your attention to further violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 30 June 1998.

On that day four Turkish military aircraft, two RF-4 carrying out aerial photography and two F-4, entered the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations. Two of those aircraft flew over the areas of Famagusta and Kyrenia, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

As stated in my previous letters, such violations of the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement, as well as violate international air traffic rules.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once more to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, at the same time drawing your attention to the fact that these violations occurred just one day after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1179 (1998), which called for respect of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and for refraining from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative